

REMARKS

Claims 40, 41 and 44-78 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 40, 44-46, 56 and 60 are amended. No new matter is added. Claims 42 and 43 are cancelled without prejudice to, or disclaimer of, the subject matter contained in these claims. Reconsideration of the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Applicants appreciate that the Office Action indicates that claims 54, 56 and 59-66 recite allowable subject matter. However, for at least the reasons discussed below, Applicants respectfully assert that all of the claims recite allowable subject matter.

The Office Action rejects claims 40-69 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claims 40, 56 and 60 are amended to obviate the 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, rejection. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, rejection.

The Office Action rejects claims 40-42, 44, 46-53, 55, 57, 58 and 67-69 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by WO 00/21047 to Rutter and rejects claims 43 and 45 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Rutter. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

The Office Action asserts that Rutter, on page 4, lines 11-22, teaches the features recited in claim 40. However, Rutter does not disclose "a first electrical connection means connectable to an external power supply for supplying power to said alarm circuit; a second electrical connection means for connection to a live side of a switch for lighting circuit," as recited in amended claim 40.

Rutter, on page 4 lines 18-22, teaches "no main power will be supplied to the smoke alarm during periods when the lighting circuit is switched off." Thus, Rutter does not disclose the features of amended claim 40.

Additionally, the Office Action asserts that while the light switch means in Rutter is not mounted on the alarm housing, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to use a light switch disposed at the location of the light and, thus, it would result in the switch located on the alarm housing. However, the alarm housing of Rutter is removably attached to the light fitting so the provision of the light switch on the housing would have rendered the light inoperative when the alarm housing is removed. Thus, Applicants argue it would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have the light switch means mounted on the removable alarm housing that renders the switch inoperable when the housing is removed.

In accordance with the above remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 40 defines patentable subject matter. Claims 41-69 depend from independent claim 1, and therefore, also define patentable subject matter, as well as for the additional features they recite. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and §103(a) rejections, for the reasons discussed above.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 40, 41 and 44-78 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment:
Petition for Extension of Time

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